

App. No.: 10/711336
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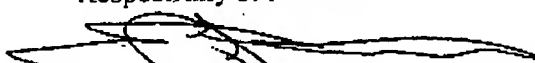
REMARKS

The indicated allowability of claims 7-9, subject to their being rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. Claim 7 has been so amended.

Claim 1 has also been amended to further define its distinction over the prior art and specifically the cited Nakamura reference. This reference is directed to a quite different structure and would not possess the advantages of the claimed construction. Nakamura discloses not an integral piston pin, but rather a valve actuator that is rotatably journaled by the piston rod for operating a valve contained internally in the cylinder. If that valve actuator was formed integrally with the piston rod, it could not serve its intended purpose. Therefore one skilled in the art would not make such a modification.

Reconsideration of the expressed rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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